UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.1/3/Add.1

Distr.: General
12 April 2014

Original: English

United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
First session
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Policy issues
Implementation of decisions adopted by the governing body at previous sessions

Governing Council decision 27/4 on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

At its twenty-seventh session, held in Nairobi in February 2013, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) adopted decision 27/4 on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. As requested in decision 27/4, the present report provides the status of implementation of that decision.

In addition to an overview of the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/4, the present report sets out a summary of key decisions adopted by the Plenary of the Platform at its second session, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 9 to 14 December 2013, and a brief report on relevant activities undertaken during the first quarter of 2014.

Since the establishment of the Platform in April 2012, and the intersessional process leading up to the first session of the Plenary of the Platform in January 2013, UNEP has provided support for the establishment of procedures to assist Governments and other stakeholders to implement the Platform's work, and for the development of the Platform's work programme.

At its second session, the Plenary of the Platform adopted an ambitious initial work programme for the Platform for 2014–2018, and a strong commitment to its implementation was demonstrated by pledges totalling more than half of the total five-year budget for 2014–2018 (with over $18 million received and over $7 million pledged).

The operationalization of the Platform has provided an opportunity for innovation in the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including through the Platform's recognition of the importance of indigenous and local knowledge, and the strong emphasis in its work programme on capacity-building and ensuring that the best available information on biodiversity and ecosystem services is provided to decision makers in accordance with their needs.

* UNEP/EA.1/1.

K1400719 290414

I. Overview

1. The present report sets out information on the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/4, on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis, up to 31 January 2014.

1. Authorizes the Executive Director, within available resources, to provide the secretariat and administrative arrangements in responding to decision IPBES/1/4, including the secondment of a professional officer to the Platform secretariat

2. Building on the interim secretariat arrangements put in place by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2012, at its first session, the Plenary of the Platform requested UNEP to provide the Platform's secretariat and invited UNEP to provide administrative arrangements for the Platform's secretariat in accordance with the rules of UNEP. To that end, and in response to Governing Council decision 27/4, UNEP continued to provide the services of the Platform's secretariat, in accordance with the decisions adopted at the first session of its Plenary. The secretariat has provided support to the intersessional process in preparation for the second session of the Plenary of the Platform with support from the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC). During the intersessional period, the secretariat has provided administrative and technical support contributing to the following milestones in preparation for the second session of the Plenary:

(a) Initial gathering of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, held at UNEP-WCMC in Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in March 2013, with support from the Government of Australia, which provided the basis for the Panel to work as a team;

(b) First full meetings of the Panel and the Bureau, hosted in Bergen, Norway, from 2 to 6 June 2013, by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, at which they agreed on their working modalities, established the work required and allocated responsibilities for that work in the intersessional period;

(c) Expert workshop on the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge systems to the Platform convened by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in Tokyo from 9 to 11 June 2013, hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Japan, and organized jointly by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations University, which provided the basis for further work by the Platform on indigenous and local knowledge;

(d) Open online review by Governments and other stakeholders over a six-week period in June and July 2013 of a number of documents being prepared for the second session of the Plenary of the Platform, which provided the opportunity for Governments and other stakeholders to contribute to the development of procedures and the draft work programme of the Platform;

(e) Latin America and the Caribbean regional consultation meeting held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 11 to 13 July 2013, organized jointly by UNEP and the Sao Paulo Research Foundation, which strengthened engagement in the region;

(f) Pan-European stakeholder meeting held in Leipzig, Germany, from 16 to 18 July 2013, organized by the Network-Forum for Biodiversity Research Germany and other European national biodiversity platforms, which strengthened engagement in the region;

(g) Africa regional consultation meeting held in Nairobi from 22 to 24 July 2013, with support from the Government of Norway, which strengthened engagement in the region;

(h) Eastern Europe regional consultation meeting held in Budapest and Tihany, Hungary, from 31 July to 2 August 2013, hosted by the Centre for Ecological Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences with support from the Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development, which strengthened engagement in the region;

(i) Expert workshop on the conceptual framework for the Platform held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 25 and 26 August 2013, with support from the Governments of Japan, South Africa and the United Kingdom, which provided the basis for the proposed conceptual framework recommended by the Panel;

(j) Second full meetings of the Panel and the Bureau held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 27 to 31 August 2013, hosted by the Government of South Africa with support from the Government of Norway, at which the preparations for the second session of the Plenary of the Platform were finalized;

(k) Asia-Pacific regional consultation meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on 3 November 2013, organized jointly by the Malaysia Industry-Government Group for High Technology and the Office of the Science Adviser, supported by the Norwegian Environment Agency, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia, and UNEP-WCMC, in conjunction with an informal consultation on the Platform and capacity-building, which was held in Kuala Lumpur from 4 to 6 November 2013, which strengthened engagement in the region and provided further clarity on the possible scope of the Platform's capacity-building activities;

(l) The recruitment process for the positions approved by the Plenary of the Platform was initiated during 2013, with one staff member being recruited to the Platform secretariat in Bonn during the year. Seven further positions were advertised during 2013, including the Head of the Platform's secretariat. The successful recruitment of Ms. Anne Larigauderie to that position was announced at the second session of the Plenary of the Platform and Ms. Larigauderie took up her position in Bonn on 4 February 2014. The remaining six positions of the Platform-funded secretariat are in the final stages of recruitment and the recruitment process for the UNEP secondment of a professional officer is under way. UNEP is working to ensure a smooth handover and transition from the interim secretariat team operating in Nairobi to the Platform's secretariat hosted in Bonn.

2. Requests the Executive Director, in accordance with decision I/4, to enter into a collaborative partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, for consideration by the Platform plenary, in order to enter into an institutional link with the Platform and its secretariat.

3. The Executive Director, in accordance with decision IPBES/1/4, was requested to enter into a collaborative partnership with UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The four United Nations entities jointly prepared and submitted for the consideration of the Plenary at its second session a draft collaborative partnership arrangement. At its second session, the Plenary approved the collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between these entities as set out in the annex to decision IPBES-2/8. In the decision, the Plenary invited each of the four United Nations entities to approve the collaborative partnership arrangement.

3. Authorizes the Executive Director:

(a) To finalize a host country agreement with the Government of Germany for the presence of the Platform secretariat in Bonn;

(b) To make those arrangements necessary for the secretariat of the Platform to operate, with a view to having a functioning secretariat, at the latest, by the end of the second session of the Plenary.

4. The Government of Germany and UNEP have agreed on hosting arrangements for the Platform secretariat in Bonn. Under the arrangements, the secretariat is covered on an ad interim basis under the existing arrangements in place for the UNEP-administered secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. The staff of the Platform's secretariat will therefore enjoy the privileges and immunities accorded under the overall agreement between the Government of Germany and the United Nations Volunteers programme, which is mandated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to serve as the administrative umbrella for all United Nations entities in Bonn. As reported above, the secretariat was established in Bonn in 2013 and the transition of the functions of the Platform's secretariat from Nairobi to Bonn will be completed in 2014. In addition to the administrative hosting services, and along with support from UNESCO, FAO and UNDP, UNEP will continue to provide broader programmatic and administrative support to the Platform's secretariat as envisaged in the collaborative partnership arrangement.

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue to receive financial contributions that are provided for the Platform, until the Platform's trust fund is established;

5. In its decision IPBES-2/7 on financial and budgetary arrangements, the Plenary requested UNEP to establish a trust fund for the Platform as set out in option 2.B. in paragraph 19 (b) of the note by the secretariat on options for the trust fund (IPBES/2/6) and to transfer any fund balance from the interim fund structure to the new trust fund as of 1 January 2014. Accordingly, the trust fund for the Platform is currently being established by UNEP, and all remaining funds held in the interim fund structure by UNEP

as at 1 January 2014, along with additional funds received from 1 January 2014, will be transferred into the Platform's dedicated trust fund once it has been established and is operational.

6. As at the end of March 2014, UNEP had received a total of $18,353,346 in cash, including $3,376,128 in cash received during 2012, $13,415,734 in cash received during 2013 and $1,561,484 in cash received by the end of March 2014. An additional $7,745,676 has been pledged for the period 2014-2018.

5. Requests the Executive Director to submit input and suggestions, following the procedures and guidance agreed by the Platform Plenary, and based on the findings of the fifth Global Environment Outlook report, to inform the development of the initial work programme of the Platform.

7. United Nations bodies related to biodiversity and ecosystem services were invited by the Plenary at its first session to submit inputs and suggestions, as determined by their respective governing bodies, to inform the development of the initial work programme of the Platform. To that end and as requested by the Governing Council in its decision 27/4, UNEP submitted a selection of inputs and suggestions. The suggestions included elements related to a foresight process (horizon scanning) for biodiversity and ecosystem services; a comprehensive global assessment on the status and trends in biodiversity and ecosystem services and the consequences of changes therein for human well-being; a regional assessment for Africa; establishing a data centre or data management approach such that data brought together and used within global and regional assessments can be made available to the global research and policy communities; promoting novel approaches to the mapping and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services; promoting the mapping and modelling of the spatial and temporal distribution of pressures on and threats to biodiversity; supporting the work to measure the achievement of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and a strong emphasis on communicating the science and other work of the Platform. The submissions by UNEP provided an opportunity to inform the Platform on UNEP priorities, including those resulting from the fifth Global Environment Outlook report assessment process.

6. Also requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session.

8. The present document provides the requisite report on the implementation of decision 27/4. The United Nations Environment Assembly may wish to consider the usefulness of regular reporting on the status of the Platform and implementation of relevant decisions at its future sessions.

II. Summary of key decisions adopted by the Plenary of the Platform at its second session

9. At its second session, the Plenary of the Platform adopted a number of key decisions, including:

(a) Decision IPBES-2/5, on the work programme for the period 2014–2018, sets out an initial work programme for the Platform for the next five years, supported by a strong commitment to its implementation through existing pledges totalling more than half ($25.4 million) of the total $43.5 million budget required for the five-year work programme. The work programme deliverables cover all four functions of the Platform: capacity-building, knowledge generation, assessment and policy support. In addition, the conceptual framework was also adopted in decision IPBES-2/4 as presented by the interim Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and will form the basic common ground for the Platform's work;

(b) Decision IPBES-2/3, on procedures for the Platform's deliverables, sets out procedures which provide clear means for implementing the work programme for the period 2014–2018, with some outstanding procedures to be considered further in the future, for example those relating to the use of local and indigenous knowledge;

(c) Decision IPBES-2/1, on amendments to the rules of procedure for the Plenary with regard to rules governing the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, sets out procedures for the nomination and selection of members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, which will be used as the basis for the selection of the Panel's members for a three-year period by the next session of the Plenary;

(d) Decision IPBES-2/8, on a collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary and the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the

United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, provides a framework for collaboration between the four United Nations entities and the Plenary in support of the Platform and its Secretariat; and

(e) Decision IPBES-2/7, on financial and budgetary arrangements, includes an agreement that UNEP shall establish and manage the Platform's trust fund.

10. The report of the second session of the Plenary of the Platform (IPBES/2/17) and related decisions is available in the six official languages of the United Nations from the Platform's website: www.ipbes.net. In addition, the implementation of the work programme 2014–2018 is under way and further details on the schedule and upcoming activities are also available on the Platform's website. It is anticipated that the third session of the Platform's Plenary will be held in Bonn, Germany, in January 2015.

Report on the implementation of the Platform's work programme from January to April 2014

11. Following the successful outcome of the second session of the Plenary of the Platform, the third meetings of the Platform's Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel were held in Bonn, Germany, from 10 to 14 March 2014, with the objective of planning and initiating the next steps for the implementation of the Platform's work programme in 2014.

12. Key issues which were discussed and agreed upon by the Bureau and the Panel include:

(a) Overall time schedule for work programme implementation in 2014 and the respective responsibilities of the Panel and Bureau members;

(b) The in-kind offers for technical support units for task forces and expert groups to support the implementation of the work programme, of which five were accepted;

(c) The process for the nomination and selection of members of the Panel, which was agreed upon and will be communicated to all Governments in due course.

(d) The next steps for the implementation of the Platform's work programme deliverables for 2014, including:

(i) Selection of experts for eight deliverables (task forces for capacity-building, indigenous and local knowledge, and data and knowledge; expert groups on guide to assessments, scoping of the conceptualization of values, and policy support tools and methodologies; assessment groups for pollination, and scenarios analysis and modelling). Over 1,000 nominations were received from Governments and stakeholders and 300 experts were selected in accordance with the criteria and procedures adopted by the Plenary;

(ii) Planning for the next steps for the above-mentioned deliverables; and

(iii) Planning for the deliverables on outreach and stakeholder engagement and the review of the Platform's effectiveness and efficiency.